

projects



ralph wilson stadium

Client: Ralph Wilson Stadium, Home of the Buffalo Bills

Location: Buffalo, NY

Seat Count: 75,300

Opening: 1999 Season

Project Type: Renovation

Contact: Perry Dix | Buffalo Bills | 716.648.1800

AD Scope: Sound Reinforcement | Clubs/Suites A/V | In-House Cable TV Systems | Room Acoustics

The State of New York made a commitment to the Buffalo Bills by agreeing to make a significant investment in the National Football League's team and its facilities. Improvements included the addition of upper deck restroom towers, expanded clubs, contoured armchair seats to the lower bowl, 76 new dugout suites and luxury sideline club seats. The success of the Buffalo design was in rethinking speaker coverage in a stadium. The great challenge was that they couldn't afford a distributed system—which would have been the easiest solution. We predicted that the other traditional approach—an end-zone cluster—would not work because of the plan to construct party suites. The big problem with an end-zone cluster approach in this stadium would be very strong late arriving reflections off the building glass. The problem already existed with the suites that were in place, and since the renovation doubled the amount of party suites, it was clear that the problem would only get worse. In reviewing the architect's design for the new construction, we realized that the new restroom elevator towers provided a speaker mounting position that would be appropriate for sideline clusters. In the crossfire hybrid solution we developed, the idea is that two things happen: 1) the sideline clusters and flagpole speakers provide coverage to the near seating bowl, and 2) long firing elements provide coverage across the field.